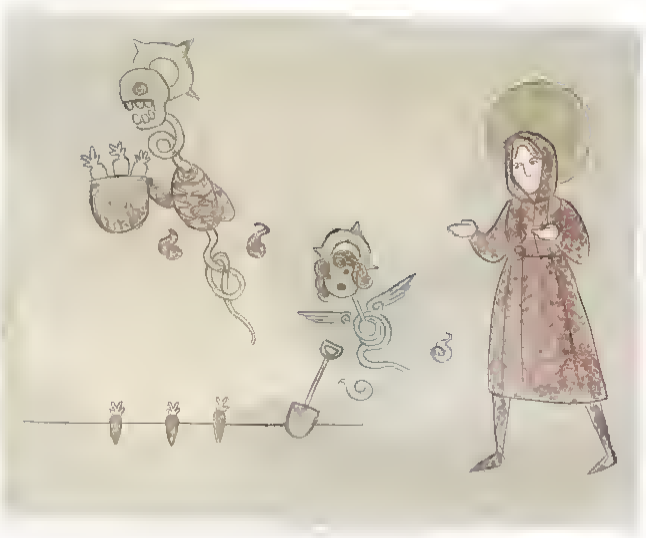
SOMETIMES WHEN A PERSON DIES...THEIR SPIRIT DOES NOT MOVE ON. IT MANIFESTS IN THE WORLD OF THE LIVING, MAKING ***TROUBLE.***

SPIRIT MEDIUMS, WHO CALL THEMSELVES RED CROWS, WERE TASKED WITH ROUNDING UP

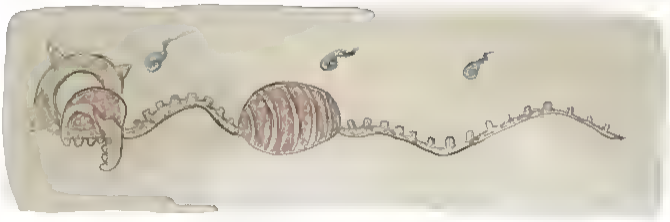
THESE SUPERNATURAL
*VERMIN.*



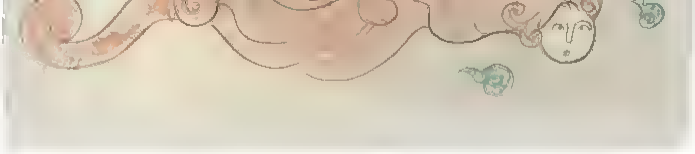
THEY PUT THESE
SPIRITS TO WORK ON
TASKS THAT BENIFITED
SOCIETY, UNTIL THE SPIRIT'S
ENERGY WAS SPENT...
HOPEFULLY FORCING IT
TO MOVE ON THROUGH
THE ASHES AND INTO
THE *AFTERLIFE.*

IN THE OLD DAYS,
MEDIUMS RISKED THEIR
OWN LIVES TO CAPTURE
A PART OF A SPIRIT'S
SOUL AND THEREFORE
GAIN MASTERY OVER IT.

BUT NOW, WITH THE MODERN INVENTION OF THE ***CROW'S EYE***, MEDIUMS NO LONGER NEED THE RISKY ***RITUALS*** OF OLD.



WITH PART OF THEIR SOUL IN THE POSSESSION OF THE CROWS, A SPIRIT IS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING RULES:



THE GHOST CANNOT HARM A RED CROW.

THE GHOST CANNOT HARM ANOTHER SOUL, LIVING OR DEAD, UNLESS SO ORDERED BY A RED CROW.

THE GHOST MUST POSSESS OR DEPOSSESS ANY PERSON OR ITEM BEFORE THEM IMMEDIATELY UNDER THE ORDER OF A RED CROW.

THE GHOST MUST RETURN TO THEIR PHOTOGRAPH IMMEDIATELY UPON THE ORDER OF A RED CROW.

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE GHOST MUST

(CONT ON NEXT PAGE)

THE NEST
HISTORY

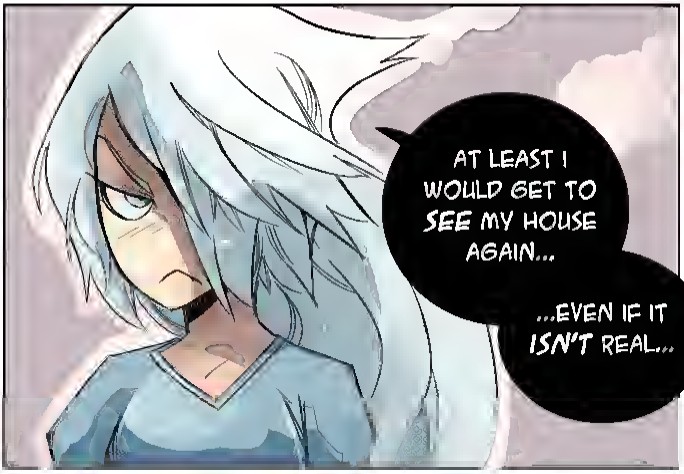
NEST
GIFT SHOPPE
MAMAAA! THIS GHOST GIRL IS FORCING ME TO READ A BOOK!
WE'VE BEEN

UGH, HOW BARBARIC!
STARING AT THIS PAGE FOR FIVE MINUTES ALREADY...
WINTER?!
HEY! DON'T LOSE HER - SHE'S OUR TICKET TO CONTROLLING 0-70!
YOU CAN'T JUST FLOAT OFF AND HARRASS CIVILIANS!
THE LAWS GOVERNING GHOSTS LIKE YOU IN OUR SOCIETY ARE STRICT...

LET'S SEE...YOU WANT A WARRANT TO SEARCH A FACTORY, AND A COMBAT HUSK?
ONE MOMENT.
YAWN
JUST STAY CLOSE WHILE WE GET THINGS ORGANISED!

IF YOU DRIFT OFF *AGAIN*, I'LL BE FORCED TO ORDER YOU BACK INTO YOUR *PHOTOGRAPH*.

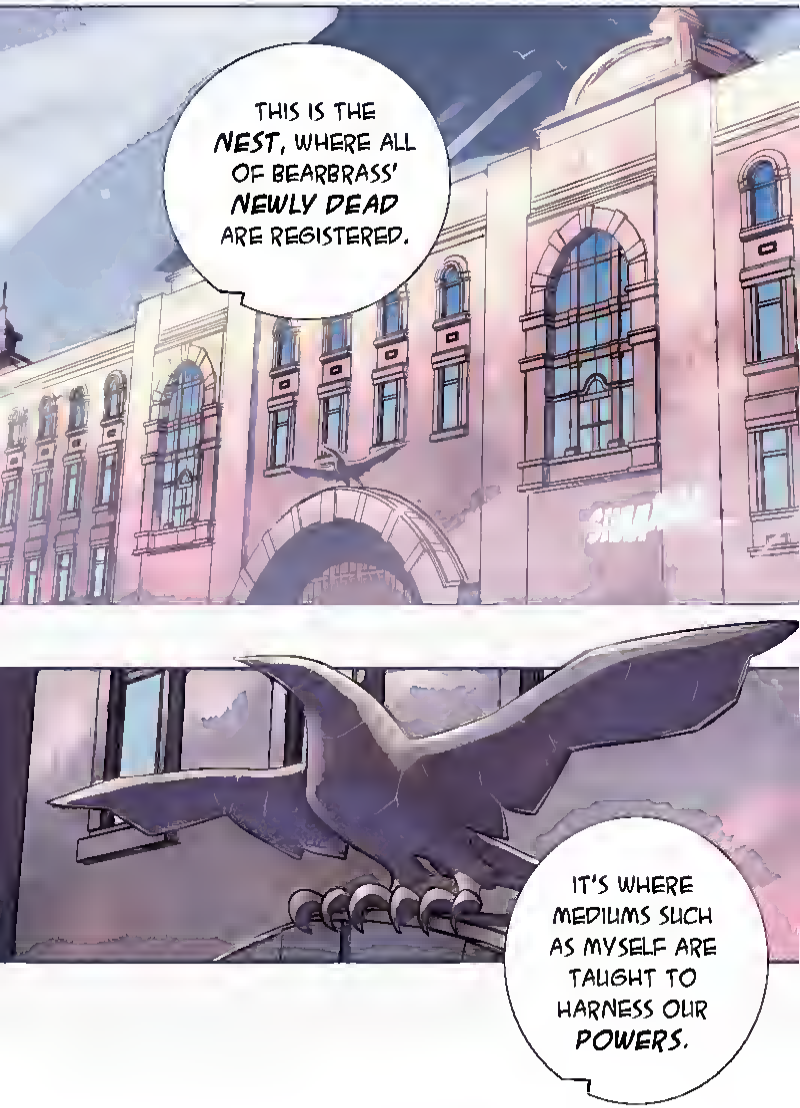
*NO* SPIRIT LIKES BEING STUCK IN THEIR PHOTO!



AT LEAST I WOULD GET TO *SEE* MY HOUSE AGAIN...

...EVEN IF IT *ISN'T* REAL...

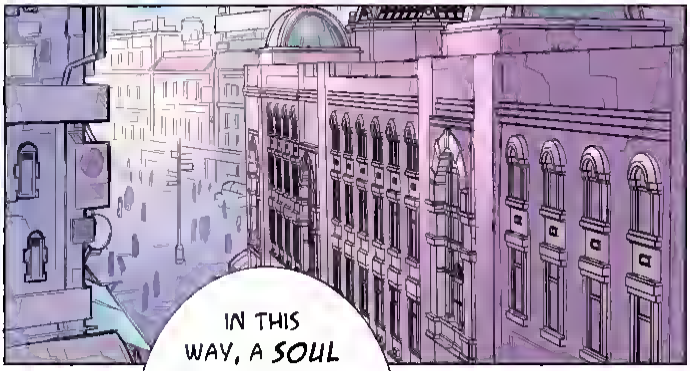
YOU GO ON ABOUT THAT HOUSE A LOT.
SEEMS LIKE A DULL PLACE TO SPEND YOUR TIME, EVEN FOR A GHOST.
I LIKE DULL.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN OUT INTO THE WORLD IN MANY YEARS. AREN'T YOU CURIOUS TO SEE HOW MUCH IT HAS CHANGED?


THIS IS THE NEST, WHERE ALL OF BEARBRASS' NEWLY DEAD ARE REGISTERED.
IT'S WHERE MEDIUMS SUCH AS MYSELF ARE TAUGHT TO HARNESS OUR POWERS.

IN HERE, WE FIND A PURPOSE FOR ALL OF THE CITY'S LOST SOULS.
WE USE THEIR SPIRITUAL ENERGY FOR THE BETTERMENT OF SOCIETY!

..BUT I DON'T LIKE THE GHOST MAID I WAS ASSIGNED.
SHE LOOKS OLD.
I WANT A YOUNG, SWEET GHOST GIRL AS MY MAID..
YOU'LL TAKE WHAT
I DEMAND TO SEE AN EXORCIST! MY NEWBORN IS CLEARLY POSSESSED!
HE DROOLS, HE CANNOT CONTROL HIS LOWER BODILY FUNCTIONS..

THE COUNCIL ASSIGNS YOU, SIR...
MA'AM...
IS THIS YOUR FIRST BABY...?


IN THIS WAY, A SOUL CAN STILL HAVE VALUE, LONG AFTER THE BODY IS GONE.

THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN SITTING IN A HAUNTED HOUSE, WINTER.

WHAM
WELP! THAT'S OUR WARRANT SORTED.
AND HERE'S OUR COMBAT HUSK!
IT LOOKS... CRACKED.

ER...YES, IT'S AN **OLDER** MODEL. BUT I'M SURE **PAI** CAN STILL OPERATE IT...

ZZz

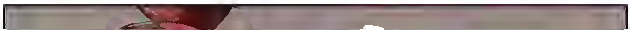
THIS DRUDGE? I'D FEEL MORE **CONFIDENT** IF WE HAD A **REAL** SPECTRE.

WEEEELL, MY OPTIONS WERE...

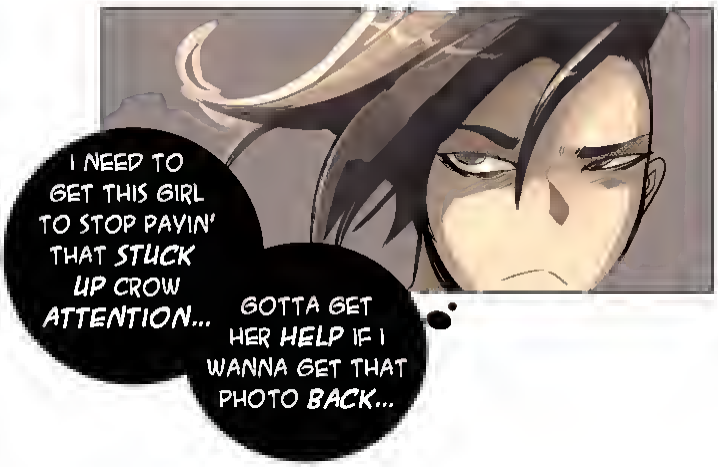
**LIMITED** DUE TO MY, UH, **RESTRICTIONS**...

WHAT A DISGRACE! AND YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A MASTER, AS WELL...!

...COME TO THINK OF IT...
I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOU HAVEN'T SUMMONED A SPIRIT YOURSELF TODAY.
YOU WOULDN'T BE SUSPENDED FOR SOME REASON AS WELL, WOULD YOU?



DASH
UH...
I JUST REMEMBERED! WE'LL NEED SOME FRESH EYES FOR CAPTURING OUR PREY!
MASTER, CAN WE EVEN TRUST VOSTOKOV...
MORE TO LIFE...THAN MY HOUSE?
HMMM...


I NEED TO GET THIS GIRL TO STOP PAYIN' THAT STUCK UP CROW ATTENTION...
GOTTA GET HER HELP IF I WANNA GET THAT PHOTO BACK...

I SHOULD BE A FREE SPIRIT RIGHT NOW...
HAUNTIN' HOUSES, DOIN' WHAT I LIKE...

INSTEAD I'M STUCK HERE WATCHIN' YOU MAKE SMOOCHY FACES AT THAT BIG-EYEBROWED MANNEQUIN...

AIN'T YA GOT NO PRIDE AS A GHOST?

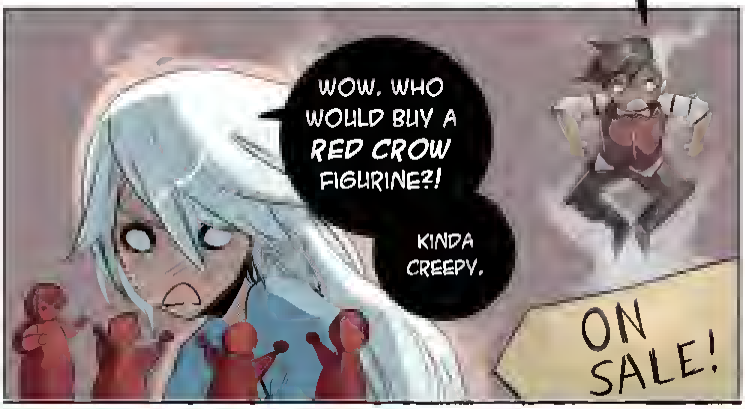
YOU TRIED TO EAT ME.

'LEAST I WAS HONEST ABOUT IT.

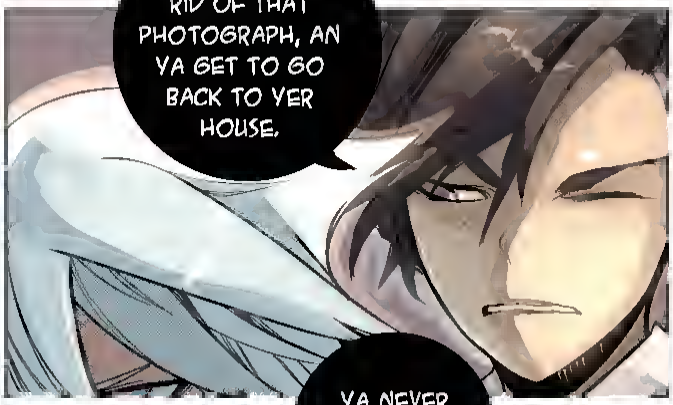
THE LIVING WANT TO 'EAT' YOU TOO, SWEETHEART.
YOU KNOW THAT'S HOW THEY USE US, RIGHT?!
THEY DRAIN OUR ENERGY UNTIL WE RETURN TO THE ASHES.
OUR SOULS ARE

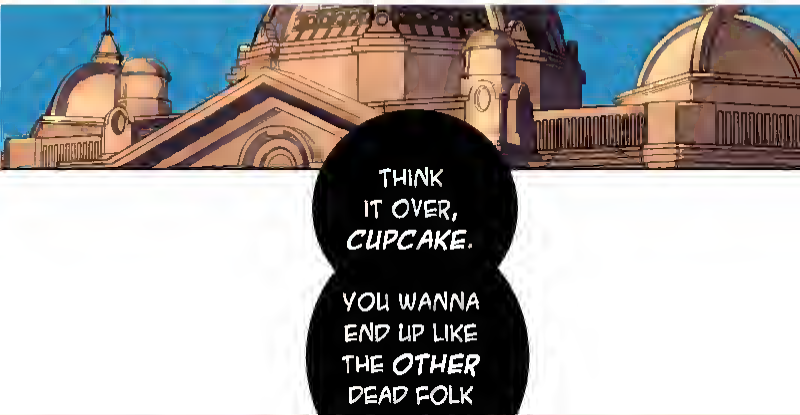
USED TO POWER MACHINES AN' HUSKS...WORK AS SLAVES IN JOBS NO ONE WANTS...

HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING?!



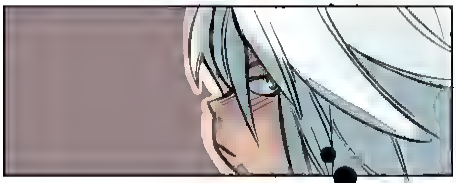

FINE. LEMME CUT TO THE CHASE.


HELP ME GET RID OF THAT PHOTOGRAPH, AN YA GET TO GO BACK TO YER HOUSE.
YA NEVER HAVE TO SEE ME AGAIN.


THINK IT OVER, CUPCAKE.
YOU WANNA END UP LIKE THE OTHER DEAD FOLK

IN HERE?

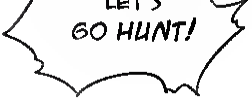
TAKE A NUMBER AND KEEP MOVING. WE'LL FIND A **PLACE** IN SOCIETY FOR YOU LOT **SOON ENOUGH...**



END UP LIKE THE *OTHERS...*

YAWN!

YAWN.
IS THIS WHAT THESE RED CROWS THINK IS RIGHT...
...SERVING THE LIVING UNTIL THE FLAME OF MY SOUL GOES OUT?
...AND THEN I SAID, 'JUST EXORCISE THE OLD GEEZER ALREADY!'
HAH.
MY EYE IS LOADED AND READY TO FIRE!
MINE TOO.


LET'S
GO HUNT!

RISE FROM ASHES